

Message Text

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73

ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

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P 062120Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4411

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 0826

PASS USDA/FAS FROM AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, OVIP, AR

SUBJ: VISIT OF ARGENTINE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE LUCIO RECA
WITH SECRETARY BUTZ

REF: BUENOS AIRES 0307

1. FOLLOWING RESIGNATION (FEBRUARY 3) OF MINISTER OF ECONOMY ANTONIO CAFIERO IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NORMAL PROCEDURE FOR SECRETARY RECA TO HAVE ALSO SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION. THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE HAS BEEN INFORMED PERSONALLY BY RECA THAT HE DEFINITELY PLANS TO GO TO WASHINGTON AS PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED, BUT IT IS UNCERTAIN YET IF HE WILL TRAVEL AS SECRETARY OR NOT.

2. POSSIBLE ITEMS HE MAY RAISE WITH SECRETARY BUTZ AND OTHER USDA OFFICIALS:

- A. APHIS MEAT INSPECTION PROGRAM, TIMING OF NEXT VISIT TO ARGENTINA AND EVENTUAL STATUS OF DELISTED CORDOBA PLANTS;
- B. WORLD MEAT CONGRESS SCHEDULED FOR BUENOS AIRES FOR AUGUST 3-6 AND INVITATION FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY BELL AND DR. JERRY CALLIS OF PLUM ISLAND TO ATTEND. CONGRESS WILL COINCIDE WITH PALERMO LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION;

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C. WORLD GRAIN AND MEAT MARKET PROSPECTS;

D. CONTINUED USDA COOPERATION IN FOOT-AND-MOUTH VACCINE PROGRAM; AND

E. U.S. IMPORT OF BEEF AND POSSIBLE RELAXATION OF REGULATION AGAINST BEEF FROM FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE COUNTRIES.

3. THE PRESS THIS MORNING (FEB 5) REPORTED THAT RENE DELPECH HAD BEEN NAMED BY THE NEW MINISTER OF ECONOMY AS THE NEW SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK. ON THE BASIS OF THIS INFORMATION USDA MAY WISH TO CONSIDER SCALING DOWN SOME OF THE APPOINTMENTS MADE FOR RECA FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY. HOWEVER, EMBASSY SUGGESTS DESIRABILITY RETAINING APPOINTMENT WITH SECY. BUTZ AS WELL AS BASIC SCHEDULE OF APPOINTMENTS SINCE RECA IS CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE TOP AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS IN ARGENTINA, HAS BEEN IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT BEFORE AND WILL NO DOUBT REMAIN A KEY PERSON IN AGRICULTURAL POLICY MAKING IN THE FUTURE.
HILL

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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